REMARKS

Claims 1-24 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 12, 13, 19, and 21 have been amended.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections:

Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitney, U.S. Patent 5, 812,214, in view of Sugauchi, U.S. Patent 6,041,349. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The cited references, taken singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the elements of the independent claims. The teachings of Whitney were presented in the previous office action response. Sugauchi teaches a system management/network correspondence display and system therefor. Sugauchi provides different maps related to each other by collecting such a client/server configuration, generating a client/server configuration map of components of a network map, automatically making correspondence with the display elements in the generated map to the display elements in the network map, and displaying them to a user.

In contrast, Applicant's independent claim 1 recites, in pertinent part:

"a storage unit configured to store a domain list and a path list ...and a control unit communicatively coupled to the storage unit, the control unit configured to <u>determine an active path from the at least two available paths</u> and to transmit data to the domain over the active path, and wherein the control unit is further configured <u>to change the active path to another of the at least two available paths</u>" (emphasis added).

Independent claims 10 and 19 recite similar combinations of features.

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Applicant can find no teaching or suggestion of this combination of features in either Whitney or Sugauchi. In the office action, the Examiner contends that Whitney teaches that retrieve storage location routine of the control unit determines if there is a match between the logical path name from the request and a logical path name in prefix table 520, and determines if there is a desire to change the active path by match in the logic path name. In support of this contention, the Examiner cites col. 8, line 56 to col. 9, line 15 of Whitney, which states:

"In step 608, the retrieve storage location routine 520 determines if there was a match between the logical path name from the request and a logical path name in the workstation prefix table 520 (i.e., was there a prefix that matched a leading portion of the logical name). **If there was a match, it is determined whether the matched entry in the workstation prefix table 520 has its local volume flag set in column 812 (step 610). In other words, it is determined whether the object having the logical path name is within a local volume for the workstation.** If the local volume flag is set, the local address is retrieved from column 810 of the prefix table and the logical path name from the request is translated by substituting the retrieved local address for the matched portion of the logical path name (step 612). Control is then returned to the access object routine 516 (see FIG. 4).

If in step 610 it is determined that the matched entry does not have its local volume flag set, the workstation 500 must look elsewhere to resolve the logical name to a physical address and, hence, the network address associated with the logical path name is retrieved from column 808 in the workstation prefix table 520 (step 614). The request to access the object is then sent indirectly to a network server at the retrieved network address (step 616). The request is actually sent to a redirector that then sends the request to the network server. The perform server name resolution routine 522 is then called to perform name resolution at the server (step 618)."

In column 8, lines 2-23, Whitney further states:

"Column 812 holds a local volume flag. **The local volume flag indicates whether the logical path name of the row 802 identifies a volume of the workstation that the user is logged onto.**"(Emphasis added).

In column 7, line 41-45, Whitney states:

"FIG. 6 is a flow chart of a <u>retrieve storage location routine 518</u> **which performs the mapping of the logical path name of an object to a physical address for**

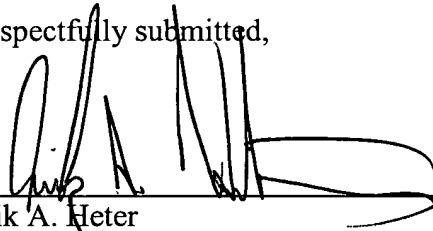the object in the distributed system 100 (i.e., step 406 of FIG. 4)." (Emphasis added)

Applicant submits that the disclosures of Whitney cited by the Examiner do not teach changing an active path or even determining whether it is desirable to do so. Applicant submits that the disclosure of Whitney cited by the Examiner, as stated in Col. 7 lines 41-45, determine the mapping of a logical path name of an object to a physical address, but does not teach or suggest changing an active path (as recited in the independent claims) or even determining whether or not such a change is desirable. Applicant can find no teaching or suggestion of changing the active path elsewhere in Whitney or anywhere in Sugauchi. Accordingly, Applicant submits that a case of obviousness has not been established, and thus respectfully requests removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-52100/EAH.

Respectfully submitted,

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